

August 2, 2004

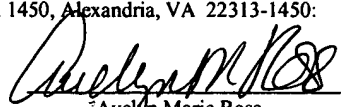
1743 \$
10
VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P.
2300 FIRST CITY TOWER
1001 FANNIN STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-6760
TELEPHONE (713) 758-2222
FAX (713) 758-2346
www.velaw.com

Avelyn Marie Ross
Direct Dial 512-542-8411
Direct Fax 512-236-3218
aross@velaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

August 2, 2004
Date


Avelyn Marie Ross

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/055,726 "A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING NITROGEN INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS" by John R. Rhodes; Confirmation No. 8318*
Attorney Docket No. SPE503/4-6CIPUS

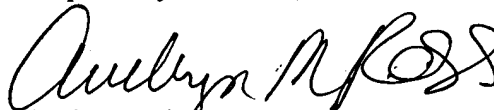
Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced patent application are the following:

1. Amendment and Response to Office Action of April 2, 2004;
2. Credit Card Payment Form; and
3. A return postcard to acknowledge receipt of these documents.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$55.00 as indicated on the enclosed Credit Card Payment Form. If the referenced authorization is inadvertently omitted or deficient, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to appropriately deduct or credit the requisite amount from VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS.

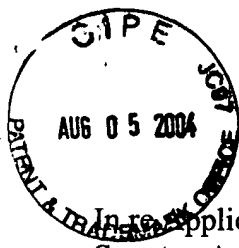
Respectfully submitted,


Avelyn Marie Ross
Reg. No. 51,174

1817:5588

Enclosures

461620_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of:

Spectro Analytical Instruments

International Serial No.: 10/055,726

Filing Date: 23 January 2002

For: **A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PREVENTING NITROGEN
INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-
ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS**

§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§

Group Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Yelena G. Gakh

Atty Dkt: SPE503/4-6CIPUS

Confirmation No.: 8318

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

August 2, 2004
Date

Avelyn Marie Ross
Avelyn Marie Ross

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
TO OFFICE ACTION OF APRIL 2, 2004

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 2, 2004, for which the reply date is July 2, 2004. The Commissioner is requested to consider this a petition for a one month extension of time, bringing the date to August 2, 2004. This response is thus believed to be timely filed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$55.00 for a one-month extension of time as indicated on the enclosed Credit Card Payment Form. If the referenced authorization is inadvertently omitted or deficient, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to appropriately deduct or credit the requisite amount from

VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P. Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.